

great political fashion, we all stood up there and took the bows for it. That is the rules of the game.

Another part about that is you do not see the staff up there cutting the ribbon, taking the bows, getting the applause. Kathryn Lehman is one of those staff members who has not been in the forefront of the limelight and yet, should. She has worked for every significant Republican leader in this House of Representatives for the last 10 years or more. Every critical decision of this House, every major piece of legislation was worked on on a team in which she was a staff member, anything from the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HENRY HYDE) to the Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, and, most recently, our conference Chair, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE). The legislation that we moved all had the invisible fingerprint of Kathryn Lehman.

I, as vice chairman of the Republican Conference, have had a chance to work with her. I can tell my colleagues she is intelligent, she is well versed, she is in the background, and she is a pro. One thing I will say, though, that is also significant about her, she works hard and, at times, when she has that rare opportunity to play and relax, she plays hard. I remember one occasion with her, getting the chance to see her shoot skeet. We were with some people who were pretty hotshot skeet shooters, and I looked over there and she was shooting a 28 gauge, which means you have to shoot a clay pigeon practically with a BB gun. It is impossible to do. I think out of 25 she hit 24 of them, and maybe I bumped her on that 25th.

But she is kind of a true renaissance person of today, somebody who knows how to enjoy life, get out and relax and mix and mingle with different types of people; yet, when it comes time to work, she is a hard-core, very straightforward professional.

We will miss her, Democrats and Republicans alike. She has been an institutionalist, somebody who has made this place better because of her presence.

Kathryn, we wish you the best. Have fun over across the street or whatever street you are going to be on.

□ 2000

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today and pretty much every day for most

Americans of this year, they will see 6.2 percent taken out of their paycheck to pay for their Social Security retirement. If they are self-employed, they will see 12.4 percent taken out. That is everyone who earns up to \$90,000 every paycheck, day in day out they are paying that tax.

And in paying that tax, they will create a \$170 billion surplus to pay for future retirement benefits for themselves. But, now, the President has revealed his true agenda. After talking about privatization for months, something which would, in fact, worsen the financial condition of Social Security, he has now changed the debate to talking about how he is going to reduce the retirement benefits of middle-class Americans.

Now, things are a little bit different from the President. I mean, we will disregard all of his unearned income and all of the things that he has been given and all of those earnings. Let us just talk about his salary, \$400,000 as President of the United States. So that means that the President of the United States pays Social Security tax until 3 a.m. on March 24.

Now, that does not seem quite fair. Other working Americans are going to pay that tax all year long. But, let us look at some of Mr. Bush's friends. Tom Freston and Les Moonves of Viacom. They stop paying Social Security tax at 4 a.m. on January 2, because they earn \$77,000 a day.

Now, it really is not going to matter or even be noticed by George Bush when they are reduced or Mr. Freston or Mr. Moonves at Viacom, you know, not even their accountants will notice it, but it is certainly going to be noticed by those middle-class Americans.

The President's cuts, which he cast as being fair and progressive, will fall most heavily on middle-income working families in this country. You know, a median, what they call a median earner, \$36,000, say a public school teacher, will see, if they retired 40 years from now, a young teacher, they will see a reduction of 16 percent in their Social Security benefits, from \$19,000 down to \$16,000. I think they are going to notice that; it is going to hurt a lot.

What the President's folk call a high earner, \$58,400 a year, well they will see a 25 percent reduction. In fact, the reduction for people who earn \$58,000 a year will be equal to or worse than if Congress did nothing about Social Security, because it is not going to be bankrupt like the President says. Social Security will never be bankrupt. Stop saying that.

It will have to, if nothing is done and we have a very bad economy, reduce benefits by, say, 20 percent according to the Republican Congressional Budget Office or 25 percent, so they can pay benefits into the indefinite future, starting 40 or 50 years from now. That is not a crisis. That is not bankruptcy.

But the President would guarantee reductions, at least that big, for many

working families to save the program. But that is not all. That is not all the President has in mind. Because, he said, this is based on the Pozen plan, some financial guru out there who he says is a Democrat. Who cares if he is a Democrat or Republican. He is some rich guy, financial guy. And what Mr. Pozen proposed is you not only reduce retirement benefits, you reduce survivor's benefits, and you reduce disability benefits.

That is what the President said he endorses last week during his speech. He is going to reduce middle-income retirees' Social Security benefits 25 percent. And if they should be so unlucky as to become totally disabled, incapable of working, he is going to reduce their disability benefits by 25 percent; or should they have even more misfortune and die, their survivors will get a reduced benefit of 25 percent to, quote, save the program.

The President is not done there, though. He is not only reducing survivors benefits, retirement benefits, disability benefits. He wants to push these people into so-called voluntarily private plans after he has reduced their benefits; and the so-called private plans, the President's privatization has a little something called a claw-back, which is the government is allowing you to divert your Social Security money, but it is considered to be a loan, which will be repaid at the time of your retirement, death, or disability at the rate of 3 percent plus inflation.

Now, if your investments did not do too well, your survivors are going to be writing the government a check; or if you get to retirement and you did not do too well, well, you are going to see your Social Security benefits reduce up to 97 percent under the President's privatization plan.

There are better ways to secure the financial future of Social Security, which I will talk about on another evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### FAREWELL TO KATHRYN LEHMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard from our House Republican leadership team, this week the House will lose one of its most faithful servants to the private sector, when my good friend Kathryn Lehman leaves her post as chief of staff of the House Republican Conference after more than 15 years of service here in the House on Capitol Hill.

After graduating from Catholic University with a law degree, Kathryn came to the Hill in 1989 to serve then-ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), as his only staffer on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

After the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) became the subcommittee's ranking member, Kathryn continued her work and learned much from his example in leadership.

When the Republicans took over control of the House in 1994, Kathryn became the subcommittee's chief counsel and helped usher in some of the most important reforms of the first 100 days of our Congress. In 1997, Karen began working for Speaker Gingrich, playing an important part in many of the most memorable events in Congress's history. She also advised Speaker Gingrich on oversight issues involving the committees on Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, House Administration, and Government Reform.

In 1998, she took the helm as policy director for then-majority whip, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY). There, she made her mark on some of the most impressive legislative accomplishments of the Congress. Kathryn's talents then took her to the Speaker's office, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT).

Obviously, she had a hard time keeping a job at any one time, but she oversaw his coalitions and outreach efforts. In 2002, Kathryn became chief of staff for the House Republican Conference under the leadership of my great friend, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE). There she effectively crafted our message and led us to new levels of accomplishment and unity.

Kathryn now leaves the House for Holland & Knight where she will continue to be what she has always been, a bold woman who is not afraid to speak her mind. At Holland & Knight, she will follow in the tradition of her and another great mind, the late Congresswoman Tillie Fowler, my friend from Florida.

And Kathryn's long and impressive career is an example of what we can all achieve if we stick to our principles and never quit until the fight is over. Kathryn has learned much during her tenure, but she has taught others much more.

It is not surprising that Kathryn has so many friends. Through her sheer force of character and great personality, Kathryn has forged friendships with Republican and Democrat Members and staff alike. The gentleman

from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for example, the dean of the House, is one such friend; and I know that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) shares in my best wishes for Kathryn's future successes.

Kathryn deserves the thanks of so many Members on an individual level, but also deserves the thanks of the House of Representatives as a body.

Few have done more to protect its integrity and its efficacy, as Kathryn Lehman; and I know that she will be missed. She is more than just a staffer, she is more than just the Chair of so many important positions, she is more specially important, my friend, *mi amiga*, and always will be.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes and a fond farewell to Kathryn Lehman who is leaving Capitol Hill after 15 years of service. Kathryn has been like few others: effective, universally admired, and respected. And she has always offered blunt advice.

During her Hill career, Kathryn has served two Judiciary Committee Chairmen, one Majority Whip, one Conference Chairman, and two Speakers of the House—including myself.

Kathryn cut her teeth on the House Judiciary Committee working for then-Ranking Member SENSENBRENNER on the Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee and, following that, then-Ranking Member HYDE. Those tough days in the minority prepared Kathryn for the responsibility of her role as Chief Counsel following the Republican victory in 1994. She went on to serve as Special Assistant to Speaker Newt Gingrich, Policy Director for then-Majority Whip TOM DELAY, my Director of Coalitions and Outreach, and finally Chief of Staff for the House Republican Conference.

Kathryn has not only been in the room when some of the most important decisions of this House were made, but she also helped to make them. From habeas corpus reform to tax reform, Kathryn has touched it all. She has impacted more legislation during her career than she'd probably care to admit, and each time she acted with strength and conviction.

Many staffers have a laundry list of legislative achievements and career highlights, but Kathryn is more than the sum of her accomplishments. Her tenure is marked just as surely by the friendships she has made—on both sides of the aisle—than by the laws she helped to craft or the bills she ushered through to passage.

But perhaps Kathryn's most astonishing—and admirable—characteristic is her unwavering idealism. Throughout her time on Capitol Hill, she has never lost her way and has been guided by her beliefs and values. In good times and bad, Kathryn always spoke her mind and kept us all on the right track. I will miss her loyalty, her ability to make you laugh, and her sound judgment.

I wish Kathryn the very best and know that she will continue to be a standard bearer for what is right in Washington.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that our colleagues have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on

the subject of Kathryn Lehman's departure and tenure in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### REFLECTING ON THE 2-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESIDENT'S "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED" SPEECH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, May 1, marked the 2-year anniversary of President Bush's speech abroad the USS *Lincoln*, the "mission accomplished" speech.

So what have we accomplished in the last 2 years? Saddam Hussein's regime has fallen. Yet today we find ourselves mired in an endless occupation.

This past January witnessed a successful election, yet progress on developing a functioning government has been slow at best. The terror and the insurgency remain as strong as ever and seems to be growing at certain points. Explosions killed more than 100 people last week alone.

The economy is stalled, the civil society is unable to come together, and millions of Iraqis remain without regular electrical services and basic services from their government. The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces continue to fight a very vigorous fight, but the battle has taken its toll. We have lost 1,600 fellow citizens in the last 2 years, 2½ years, and more than 12,000 have been wounded.

The strain has been so great that recruiters cannot meet their enlistment goals. Through the first 5 months of fiscal year 2005, the Army is short of their recruitment goal by 15 percent. The Pentagon now says that they are stretched so thin it would be difficult for the military to meet other obligations should they need to do so.

Mr. Speaker, Operation Iraqi Freedom was a war of choice. And as President Kennedy once said, to govern is to choose. One can only hope that the war in Iraq was the right choice. This week we will appropriate an additional \$81 billion, bringing the total cost of the war in dollar sense, to \$300 billion: \$300 billion, 1,600 American lives, 12,000 citizens wounded.

And yet the insurgency continues and the war goes on. The \$300 billion we have added to the structural deficit is on top of a \$2 trillion new debt created since President Bush originally took office in 2001.

And what have we done while we have added \$300 billion to Iraq? Every President when they have taken the battle and taken the war, has thought about how to build America post that war.

President Lincoln finished the transcontinental railroad, the land grant colleges. Roosevelt not only had the